CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A server suitable for use in a collaboration system employing a communication network, said server comprising:

a group session control unit for creating a group session by integrating a plurality of individual sessions and for passing a command to an application execution unit; and

a page navigation control unit for providing a web page common to each of the individual sessions.

2. The server according to claim 1, further comprising:

a synchronization control unit for notifying each of individual session destinations of a shared status of the web page; and

a mutual communication control unit allowing a plurality of the individual session destinations to exchange messages.

3. The server according to claim 1, further comprising initiative switching means for switching ownership of initiative of web page operation.

4. The server according to claim 1, wherein the page navigation control unit includes a page sharing processing unit for creating data by compiling the web page and an identification value corresponding to the data in response to display of a new web page and for storing the data and the identification value in association with each other.

5. A client device suitable for use in a collaboration system employing a communication network, said client device comprising:

browser means for displaying data received through the network;

page navigation means for generating a request transmitted over the network for changing ownership of initiative of operation of a web page to be displayed among a plurality of client devices;

synchronization control means for synchronizing display of a web page shared by the plurality of client devices; and

communication means for communicating over the network with other client devices among the plurality of client devices.

6. The client device according to claim 5, wherein the synchronization control means issues a request for making an inquiry about an identification value of already compiled data of the web page through the network in response to ownership status of initiative of operation of the web page.

7. The client device according to claim 5, wherein the client device executes virtual shopping with collaboration.

8. A computer-executable program for enabling a computer device to function as a server apparatus suitable for use in a collaboration system employing a communication network, said program allowing the computer device to execute:

a step of forming a group session control unit for creating a group session by

integrating a plurality of individual sessions and for passing a command to an application execution unit; and

a step of forming a page navigation control unit for providing a web page common to each of the individual sessions.

9. The program according to claim 8, wherein the program allows the computer device to further execute:

a step of forming a synchronization control unit for notifying each of individual session destinations of a shared status of the web page; and

a step of forming a mutual communication control unit for allowing a plurality of the individual session destinations to exchange messages.

10. The program according to claim 8, wherein the program allows the group session control unit to execute a step of switching ownership of initiative of web page operation.

11. The program according to claim 8, wherein the program allows the page navigation control unit to execute a step of creating data created by compiling the web page and an identification value corresponding to the data when a new web page is displayed and of storing the data and the identification value in a storage device in association with each other.

12. A computer-executable program for allowing a computer device to function as a client device suitable for use in a collaboration system employing a communication network, said program allowing the computer device to execute:

a step of communicating a request for changing ownership of initiative of

operation of a web page to be displayed among a plurality of client devices;

a step of allowing the plurality of client devices to share the web page; and

a step of allowing the client device to display a message for other client devices among the plurality of client devices.

13. The program according to claim 12, wherein the program allows the client device to execute virtual shopping in which the client devices collaborate.

14. A collaboration system for allowing client devices to collaborate through a network, the system comprising:

a plurality of the client devices connected to the network; and a server apparatus for receiving requests from the client devices, responding to the client devices, and providing a collaboration environment common to the plurality of client devices, wherein the server apparatus includes means for providing a group session formed by integrating communication sessions among the plurality of client devices, and means for synchronizing the client devices in the collaboration environment; and further wherein each of the client device includes means for synchronizing according to a web page commonly displayed among the plurality of client devices.

15. The collaboration system according to claim 14, wherein the collaboration system is a virtual shopping system.